

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL GOOD FANS

NOTE RISES OVER TITLE OF JOSEPH LYNCH

Premier Claims Early
Winning Occasioned Catch-
Weights.

BY HENRY L. FARRELL.

Special Press Staff Correspondent)
New York, Dec. 24.—If all the
boxing authorities agree, like
Babe Ruth, Joe Lynch will not
be recognized as the bantamweight
champion by the international box-
ing union.

However, that will not mean
much in the young life of the new
champion.
Welch, who has billed the Jim-
my White-Pete Herman match for
the world's bantamweight cham-
pionship, perhaps is trying to make
his fight good in eight hours before
the fight the two principles in the
championship affair here Wednes-
day went in at catch-weights and
the title was not involved.

War Cause Muddle.
It is little likely that the British
will see things like Welch and
claim the bantamweight crown for
the Welshman.

According to the books, Welch is
wrong in his argument about
weighing in.

The rules of the National Boxing
club which govern boxing in Eng-
land clearly require weights to be
made eight hours before the fight.
The Queensberry rules provide
for weighing in on the day of the
fight and the rules of the interna-
tional boxing union make it optional—
either eight hours before or at
the ring-side.

United States Not Member.
The United States does not be-
long to the International Boxing
union. Americans objecting to giv-
ing equal votes to nations where
boxing is not conducted on the
scale that it is in this country. In-
ternationally, the boxing situation
is the same as in tennis.

Until last winter, when the union
was recognized, Johnny Kilbane
was never recognized as the feath-
erweight champion because he had
never defended his title against a
European.
When he was placed on the official
list of champions, it was a
direct move for American favor.
Since the Americans failed to re-
ciprocate for the concession, the
union very probably will not recog-
nize Lynch.

Nothing to Lynch.
But, as was said, it will mean
nothing to Lynch. Kilbane got
along very well without the official
recognition of Europe. Lynch can
go his way in America without con-
sidering the other side.
No matter what attitude the union
takes, he is the recognized
champion in America, and this is a
very large country.

LAYTON FIRST A STAR TOSSER

Three-Cushion Champion Took Up
Billiards After Broken Career.
Bene Rained Baseball Career.

Johnny Layton learned to play
billiards after a broken career
ruined his baseball ambitions.
About the only form of athletics
that Layton hasn't taken part in is
football.

He has played professional base-
ball with the Wichita club in the
Western league. He has boxed,
wrestled, swam, shot traps and
played tennis.
It took him 11 years to learn that
all home runs were made with ball
bats and that some of those could
be made with a billiard cue.

He began to play on the green
cloth in 1902 and didn't graduate
into a pro until 1913.
He practiced for the recent
three-cushion championship tourna-
ment in Chicago by playing pocket
billiards. He used the same the-
ory that Babe Ruth gets results
with in hitting homers—namely—
that hitting the first ball right is
the secret of winning at billiards.

He was born at Stewardson, Ill.,
in 1887, but has lived in St. Louis
since the age of six.
Layton once held the world's
championship at pocket billiards.
His other athletic accomplishments
have given him a fine body and a
steady set of nerves.

Dr. O's scalp was the trophy
that made him the three-cushion
champion.
Hitting the first ball right, just as
Babe Ruth tried to do, and usually
has given him the three-cushion
palm.

JOE LYNCH RESTS BEFORE TRYING TO DEFEND NEW TITLE

New York, Dec. 24.—Joe Lynch,
new bantamweight boxing cham-
pion of the world, will take a
month's vacation and then start
the serious business of defending
his title, it was announced today.
Lynch went into seclusion after his
fight on Wednesday, in which he
trounced Peter Herman. A
war of the country, in which he
will meet bantamweight aspirants,
is being planned.

DERBY \$50,000.
Lexington, Ky., Dec. 24.—The
race for the Kentucky Derby, to
be run at Churchill Downs, Louis-
ville, May 7, 1925, has been in-
creased to \$50,000. It was announ-
ced today by Colonel Matt J. Winn,
manager of the Kentucky
derby club.

All the news all the time—The
Rock Island Argent.

SPORTING JAZZ

BY BRUCE COPELAND

Merry Christmas.
Too well we know the agonies that read us at Yuletide, when we
search the shelves of finger-wedged cards on the department store coun-
ter, and rack our brains, if we have any left by that time, to find a senti-
ment sufficiently hypocritical to send to our millionaire spinster aunt or
our prohibition-mad uncle. To relieve, in this over-stressful year the
long-suffering of this burden, the Jazz has prepared these suggestions:

To Anyone.
Now that this merry Christmas-tide
Encircles Imprisons us about,
Within one's spirit must reside
An elegy devout.
And so I hail the glad New Year
And send its damn bad
And send its curse to you,
That it may lighten all your fear,
And give you pleasure, too,
Which, of course, depends wholly upon the courage of the conviction
of the sender.

To Her—Unrequited.
O Thou, who didst my very words console
When on a courtly and a Hoyle knee
I knelt before thee, well—diminishing,
O Thou whose cool demeanor left me mute
And snatched the overworked strings of my lute,
A glow of Yuletide spirit stirs in me
And bids me not to mourn regretfully
But, taller-like, again to press my suit.

Accept this—with the greeting of the times—
Canary-colored cloak to match thy hair,
The symbolism of it ever rhymes
In meter with the source of my despair:
Be careful of it, Doll, grant it reprieve;
There is a heart worn on its modish sleeve!
Where is the heart so hard it would not be touched by this subtle
appeal?

To Her—Required.
This Christmas card expresses cheer,
I'll follow you like homestead beer—
Yes, nearer than the beer that's near.
I hope you understand me, dear!

To An Eligible Young Man.
Amenities but half express
The point I have in view;
I wish the season's happiness
For you.
This card with playful Cupids lined
Using the telephone;
I hope as many greetings find
Your own.

Such intimacy seems to fit
The spirit that we sing—
Surely you will give me—er—It:
A ring!
With such frankness only can the hoped for ultimate arrive.

To An Ineligible.
God rest thee on this merry day,
Let nothing you dismay . . .
Pray do not give my bell a ring,
But keep yourself away.
The polite insinuation of this needs no elucidation of its force.

To a Father.
Give! Give! Give!
To thy daughters and sons where they be;
By the price of their cars and their sables
Know how they appreciate thee.
The stony-hearted paternalist will at once burst into tears on re-
ceipt of this and reach for his cheque book.

To An Employer.
Christmas bells! Yuletide is here.
(To ho, and a big fat bonus!)
We wish it did but monthly appear,
Happiness, boss, and the best (*) of cheer,
(To ho, and a sigh for the ones!)

(*) 1/2 of 1-per.
The design of this gentle hint is probably too deep for the average
employer.

To a Schoolboy.
Ray! Ray! Ray!
Santa co-ax, co-ax, co-ax, co-ax,
Class, Class, Class,
Knap! Knap! Knap!
Carries a full pack.
Makes a touchdown Christmas Day!
Three cheers for Kringle
And all of his jingle,
With hand and with bingle,
Wherever we mingle
He puts every single
One's blood in a tingle—
Ray! Ray! Ray!

So thoroughly illuminative of the schoolboy mind that it needs no
recommendation.

To a Friend.
This is the season of good cheer,
(Lead me a fiver!)
One should not eat and have the cake,
'Tis better far to give than take,
We do need things but, for God's sake,
(Lead me a fiver!)

There is nothing in this that could offend the most sensitive recipient.
Whether the sensitiveness reaches the point of touch is another matter.

DESCAMPS TELLS WHY CARPENTIER AND BAT FOUGHT

Fight Was Held to Prove
Class to Public, He
Says.

Paris, Dec. 24.—George Carpen-
tier was forced to take on Battling
Levinisky because American public
opinion demanded some proof of
his prowess before a match with
Dempsy, according to Francois
Descamps, his manager, who has
just sent a letter to a French sport-
ing paper.

"Now that the contract for the
famous match has been signed,"
writes Descamps, "I can at last
give an explanation of the motives
which led me to accept the fight
against Levinisky."

Public Demanded It.
"Contrary to what is supposed
the match was necessary for Amer-
ican public opinion, which did not
have any confidence in Georges and
believed that his reputation was
overdone; they were still under the
impression of a Carpenter beaten
by Frank Klaus, Killy Papke and
Joe Jeannot; they took no account
of the fact that at the time of the
Klaus fight Georges was eighteen
years old; that with Papke he was
not beaten on his merits but that
he had trained down to make the
weight, while Papke paid a forfeit
of 5,000 francs."

"As for Jeannot, I owe it to the
truth to say that the great major-
ity of the press and the spectators
found that on that day my old
friend Frantz-Reichel had made a
grave mistake."

Press Picked Levinisky.
"All these circumstances the
American people did not know, or
did not wish to know. That is
why a match in America, before the
one with Dempsy, was made neces-
sary by public opinion on this
side of the ocean, especially since
the all-powerful press and a spe-
cial series of articles had practi-
cally challenged me to stage a
fight."

"As for the opponent, it was not
I who chose him, it was the ma-
jority of the papers, which said:
'Why does Carpenter want to at-
tack the heavyweights? Let him
first fight our champion of his
class, and then we shall see whether
he is qualified to meet Dempsy.'"

PEORIA QUINTET TO MEET B. F. A.

Strong Bloomington Fans' Associa-
tion Five to Oppose Peoria L. &
R's Next Monday Night.

Peoria, Dec. 24.—When the
Bloomington Fans' association
basketball team steps onto the
Bradley floor Monday night to bat-
tle the fast L. & R. Sporting Goods
Co. five of Peoria, the local basket-
ball fans will have the opportunity
of seeing some real classy players
in action.

The Bloomington outfit is one of
the best "pro" clubs in the country.
With only one or two exceptions,
the Bloomers all range around the
six foot mark and carry on the
average of 180 pounds to the man.
Norman Elliott, former Wesleyan
ace, lugging 210 pounds of muscle
and brawn, is generally considered
the best defense man ever turned
out at the Methodist university, and
although nearing the thirty-year
mark, the tall, white headed star
is reported to be going as fast as
ever.

Several Big Ten conference men
are regular with the Fans' outfit.
Among them is the agile Polmley,
one of the sharpest shooters ever
to don a basketball uniform, and a
former star with the Great Lakes
quintet; Kopp, 1919 captain of the
Illinois university grid team and
for two seasons regular back guard
on Ralph Jones' team, and Wilson,
brilliant center, who alone filled up
enough baskets to tie the Rockford
Bears in the game last Friday.

Bowling
Employees of the Standard Textile
Products company have organized
a new bowling league and will play
a series of scheduled matches for
the remainder of the season. Fol-
lowing are the results of matches
played Wednesday:

	Skins.	Av.
Nourse	125 130 153 144	
Langworthy	116 126 120 121	
Thomas	114 146 202 117	
Varley	134 165 168 156	
Clindinin	149 158 152 153	
Total	633 725 690 694	

	Skins.	Av.
Roderick	132 139 137 136	
Park	116 109 103 109	
Klemke	123 126 145 131	
Litt	120 144 143 138	
Relier	163 171 163 162	
Total	644 659 691 675	

	Marbles.	Av.
Schilling	163 167 175 175	
Van Puyabrook	149 131 120 122	
Brown	139 98 121 119	
Schray	140 121 96 122	
Wich, Ed	154 139 163 152	
Total	745 686 675 792	

	Pencils.	Av.
Atkinson	109 145 132 129	
Notaker	129 135 136 130	
Meehan	127 109 107 114	
Anthony	157 138 116 136	
Wich, J.	201 215 195 204	
Total	723 720 636 713	

REMARKABLE
How the sale on Deltanet and
Meadow Brook milk chocolates is
increasing daily. Surely two win-
ners.

The Sportscope

By Bruce Copeland.

Christmas Boxing.

Three new boxing champions are
about to spend their first Christmas
in kingly circles. One is literally
a real Christmas champ. He is Joe
Lynch, who won a referees' decision
over Pete Herman in 15 rounds
Wednesday night. Another "Christ-
mas" champ is Johnny Wilson, who
won a decision over Mike O'Dowd
in Boston several months ago for
the middleweight championship.
Georges Carpentier, the French
idol, became light heavyweight
champion a couple of months ago
by stopping Bat Levinisky, the
American titleholder.

All the other class champions
have retained their crowns without
much effort. Jimmy Wilde lost one
decision during the year. His op-
ponent was Jack Sharkey, but
Jimmy's title was unscathed be-
cause Sharkey is a bantamweight,
while Wilde is king of the fly-
weights. Johnny Kilbane has been
marked for retirement all year, but
"Killy's" astute business ability
has enabled him to weather all
storms. Many believe his ultimate
successor will be Andy Chaney of
Baltimore.

Flays Opposition.
They charge that promoters of
professional teams will corrupt
college football players; that play-
ers who have not completed their
eligible years on college teams will
be tempted to forsake the halls of
learning, and that amateur ideals
of the sport will be lowered. They
raise their hands in holy horror at
the spectacle of a college graduate
playing football once a week for
money, just as they did when col-
lege baseball stars began to enter
the professional ranks not so many
years ago.

"You will remember the halla-
baloo that was raised at Harvard
about 15 years ago when the faculty
discovered that Walter Clarkson, a
Harvard pitcher, had 'disgraced'
himself by signing a contract to
play with the Yankees after he
finished his college career. Clark-
son was barred from all further
competition in college sports after
that expose."

Defends Professionalism.
"But now the baseball leagues
draw steadily on the colleges for
material, and nobody gets excited
about it. Common sense tells a
young man just out of college that
picking up a few thousand dollars
each year playing baseball is a
good way to start a career. There
is nothing disgraceful about a col-
lege man playing professional base-
ball, nor about there being if he
chooses to augment his income by
exploiting his football prowess."

"Now as to the other charges, I
have managed a professional foot-
ball team for several years and not
once have I made an offer of em-
ployment to any college player who
did not approach me first. We
have had so much talent to draw
on that it is not necessary to go
after men on college teams. After
they graduate or quit college sport
for one reason or another, it is a
horse of another color."

Had Pick of Pack.
"You would be surprised to know
how many letters and telegrams I
get from prominent college gridiron
stars and men who have passed
their years of football eligibility in
schools all over the country. If I
wanted to, I could have picked
more than one eastern headliner out
of the college ranks. But we didn't
do business that way. In cases
where I have been approached by
a college player, I always in-
vestigated his case if I thought I
could use him."

"If professional football for him
means an interruption of his col-
lege career which would otherwise
continue, I would not consider him
for a moment. You know that old
sag about persons in glass houses
throwing stones. Well, I played at
Carlisle several years and I know
many coaches and college players.
I know a great deal, too, about their
prospects and material. When I was
in Carlisle I could have picked
more than one big eastern univer-
sity for another alma mater. I
would not have been compelled to
toll for a living, either."

College Finds a Way.
"They have ways of smoothing
out the road for a fellow who
works his way through college if he
happens to be a good football play-
er. That sort of thing is still go-
ing on even if the faculty boards
show every ear-decorator of
combustion. Coaches and old grads
scout for promising material in the
prep schools and even yank players
off other college teams. They talk
high ideals, but they like to grab
the football talent that reflects
glory on their institutions. This is
the era of high finance in football."

"I believe there is a great many
football fans in and around New
York who will support professional
games. They are the people who
have no 'pull' to get into the big
eastern classics. You know how
tickets are handled at Yale, Har-
vard and Princeton. The Army-
Navy games at the Polo Grounds
are almost private quarrels. What
about the folks who have the price,
but not the 'pull,' and would like to
see good football? Sunday sport is
now legalized in New York. Sun-
day baseball is popular and I be-
lieve Sunday football would have a
great following."

"There are some of the reasons
why I am for the professional foot-
ball game. I shall try to get suf-
ficient backing to put a team in New
York next year. It took the mid-
dle west to introduce the possibil-
ity for the pro game. There is no
reason why the game should not be
just as popular in the east, espe-
cially New York."

A Favorite Himself.
Thorpe is a great favorite in New
York, not only because he played
with the Giants for several years
but because of his splendid record

WHITE HOLIDAY FOR CHRISTMAS IN RING WORLD

Colored Stars No Longer
Dim White Champs'
Glories.

BY ED HUGHES.

The weather man can do as he
pleases about our Yuletide. It's
going to be a "white Christmas"
for ringdom. That's certain.
All the leaders of the various
fighting divisions are white men:
Dempsy in the heavy, Carpenter
in the light-heavy, Johnny Wilson
in the middle, Britton in the welter,
Leonard in the lightweight, Kil-
bane in the feather, Lynch in the
bantam, and Jimmy Wilde in the
flyweight.

Black 12 Years Ago.
But it wasn't always thus. Twelve
years ago it was indeed a "black
Christmas." Jack Johnson in far-
off Australia whipped Tommy Burns
in 14 rounds. It was the first time
in the history of the ring that a
colored man reached the top of the
heavyweight class.

Johnson, a wonderful fighter,
safeguarded the title six and a half
years. That made six successive
years of "black Christmas."
And that isn't all. From 1902 to
1908 Joe Gans, a great colored
fighter, reigned supreme in the
lightweight division. More "black
Christmas." But today Benny
Leonard, a white boy, is the ma-
jor-domo of the light boxers.

Terry Disperses "Shadow."
And that isn't all. From 1890 to
1899 George Dixon, "Lil' Chocolate,"
one of the greatest little colored
boxers ever, was the recognized
king of the featherweights. Nine
years of "black Christmas" there.
Terrible Terry McGovern finally
laid the colored boxer low and re-
stored the "white Christmas" in
the feather division. It's been so
ever since.

And that isn't all. There's old
Sam Langford. Sam is a feeble
"has-been" now. But for years he
was conceded to be the next best
man to Jack Johnson. And Jack
himself was never anxious to meet
Sam. Langford was certainly the
light-heavyweight star of his day,
excepting, possibly, the famous
Stanley Ketchel.

Only Willis and Norfolk.
But the "black Christmas" is no
more. Excepting Harry Willis, the
heavy, and Kid Norfolk, the light-
heavy, the black men have no dan-
gerous performers in the ring to-
day, and neither Willis nor Norfolk
is causing Jack Dempsy any anxi-
ous moments.

Yes, it's a "white Christmas" in
Queensberry land.

SOCIETY WOMEN O. K. RING GAME

Back Stillman Movement to Estab-
lish Athletic Clubs for Free
Boxing, Etc.

New York, Dec. 24.—Society
women here are backing the Still-
man movement to establish athletic
clubs throughout New York—and
maybe the rest of the country—for
free instruction in boxing and other
allied sports.

They are staging bouts in ball
rooms to raise funds to endow
clubs.
"We've got a new outlook on
boxing," they say.
"Just look at that young lady
school teacher in Chicago who re-
ferred fights between her pupils as
a means of stopping rowdism. Did-
n't she get the school board to
turnish boxing gloves to teach the
boys the manly art?"

Ball room bouts are arranged by
a committee including Mrs. Vincent
Astor, Mrs. Henry Potter Russell
and Mrs. J. Thelus Munds. Among
those who occupy ring-side seats at
the shows are Mrs. Charles Dana
Gibson, Miss Anne Morgan and
Mrs. Herbert Simpson.

**STECHEER SUFFERS
NEURITIS CAUSED
BY LEWIS' HOLDS**

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 24.—(United
Press.)—Joe Stecher, who was
taken to a hospital yesterday suf-
fering from a severe attack of neu-
ritis, will be out of the wrestling
game for the remainder of the win-
ter, Dr. G. W. Dishong, his physi-
cian, announced today. Stecher's
left arm is affected and he is in
great pain.

"Stranger" Lewis' headlock,
with which he wrestled the cham-
pionship from Stecher in New York
recently, is blamed by Dr. Dishong
for Stecher's condition.

as the world's greatest all-around
athlete. Before going to Sweden to
compete in the Olympic games, Jim
had the "indiscipline" to play sum-
mer baseball in a bush league in
North Carolina. As a result he was
stripped of his Olympic trophies by
the A. A. U. because of "professio-
nism."

Jim then was only a mediocre
ball player and now is capable of
playing in fastest company. John
McGraw signed him for more or
less than a drawing card as thou-
sands flocked to the ball parks all
around the circuit to get a glimpse
of the great athlete. Jim drifted
eventually from the National
league because he could not hit
curve-ball pitching effectively. But
he never lost his "pull" with the
bleacherites under Coogan's bluff.

Thorpe's popularity would stand
him in good stead if he attempts to
give New York a taste of profes-
sional football. If he succeeds, Jim
plans to bring all the big middle
western teams to Manhattan; and,
who knows?—the "Independents"
might be called next year.

PLOWBOYS SIGN "CURT" NORTON

Youthful Athletic Star to Get
Spring Tryout—Giles Collecting
Season's Best.

Curt Norton, phenomenal young
Moline athlete, has signed a con-
tract for a tryout with the Moline
Three-Eye leaguers when they be-
gin spring practice next year. Pres-
ident Giles of the Moline club an-
nounced today.

Norton gained wide publicity
this fall from his stellar football
play. As halfback for the Moline
Athletics he was regarded as one
of the fastest offensive players in
the middle west. Despite his di-
minutive stature and light weight,
Norton's great speed and superior
dodging ability gave him the jump
on all opponents.

Curt played baseball last season
with the Tractors and his infield
play was the best seen in semi-
pro ranks. He is a natural third
baseman and his many tri-city
friends are pulling for him to win
the hot corner berth with the
Plowboys.

President Giles also announced
that he expects to have the con-
tracts of Deufel, Schollenberger
and Runner soon in his hands.
Pitcher Woodhead and infielder
Lord are reported to be holding
out for more money, but it is doubt-
ful that the Moline club will meet
their demands. Infielder Stras-
baugh has not been heard from and
has also been numbered among the
holdouts.

ROX CUE STAR STATE LEADER

W. H. Leu of Rockford, Wins State
Amateur Billiard Title By
Eight Straight Games.

Final Cue Standing.

	W.	L.	Pct.	Points
Leu	8	0	1.000	680
Grant	5	2	.714	587
Vaughn	4	2	.666	585
Jensen	4	4	.500	504
Sellers	4	4	.500	494
Hubbard	2	6	.250	473
Marks	4	4	.500	444
Wurtzburger	1	7	.125	313

W. H. Leu, Rockford, Ill., won the
state amateur pocket billiard cham-
pionship at the Mussey Auditorium
by winning his eighth straight
game, which gave him a perfect
score of 600 points. William Grant,
Chicago's loop gymnast, finished
second with 557 points and C. A.
Vaughn, South Side champion,
six games in eight.

Leu comes into possession of the
championship and a diamond medal
donated by the Illinois Billiard as-
sociation without having to play
Joe Moriarty, last year's champion,
who declined to defend his title be-
cause of his decision to enter the
three-cushion tournament for the
state championship in January.

Results, number of innings and
high runs made by each player in
the final matches follow:
Leu, 75-17-17; Vaughn, 51-14-17.
Grant, 75-27-14; Sellers, 56-2